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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/608,571	06/27/2003	Edwin Bolduan	ZTP01P12032	7324
24131	7590	08/25/2005		EXAMINER
LERNER AND GREENBERG, PA				LU, JIPING
P O BOX 2480				
HOLLYWOOD, FL 33022-2480			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3749	

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/608,571	BOLDUAN ET AL.
	Examiner Jiping Lu	Art Unit 3749

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 13 June 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-16 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ . |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>6/13/05</u> . | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Allowable Subject Matter

1. The indicated allowability of claims 3-4 is withdrawn in view of the newly discovered reference(s) to Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167). Rejections based on the newly cited reference(s) follow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

3. Claims 1-4, 6-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (JP8-49161) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167).

Shibuya shows a method for cloth dewatering. The clothes 40 is brought in contact with conveyor 10 and is moved in the same speed on the conveyor. Moisture was removed by suction device 20. Gas jet (at 38) is also provided for supplying gas transversely to a surface of the clothes. However, Shibuya does not show the conveyor 10 made by absorbent material and at least two absorbent bodies on both sides of the clothing and a pressure-exerting roller for pressing the clothing against the conveyor of absorbent material. Bronander teaches a cloth dewatering conveyor 12 of absorbent material (page 1, lines 96-98) for absorbing moisture from cloth 15 and at least two absorbent bodies A, B, C, D on both side of the cloth 15 same as claimed. Pressure-exerting rollers 18 are also provided for pressing the cloth 15 against the conveyor 12. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the

time the invention was made to substitute conveyor of Bronander for the conveyor 10 of Shibuya and to provide the method and apparatus of Shibuya with two absorbent bodies on both side the of the clothing and a pressure-exerting roller spaced apart from the absorbent conveyor as taught by Bronander in order to absorb clothes moisture and improve the cloth dewatering efficiency.

With regard to the claimed material of the absorbent body in claim 13, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Shibuya with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

4. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Shibuya (JP8-49161) in view of Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167) as applied to claim 2 as above, and further in view of Henry et al. (U. S. Pat. 6,722,053).

The clothes dewatering method of Shibuya as modified by Bronander as above includes all that is recited in claim 5 except for the method of removing moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing. Henry et al. teach a method of using squeeze-drying means 5 for removing moisture from the conveyor belt 4 same as claimed. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further modify the method of Shibuya to include a step of removing moisture from the absorbent body by squeezing as taught by Henry et al. in order to improve the clothes dewatering efficiency.

5. Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bronander (U. S. Pat. 1,773,167).

Bronander shows a configuration for removing moisture from cloth comprising at least one absorbent body 12, a contracting device having a pressure-exerting roller 18 spaced apart from the at least one absorbent body 12 and a transporting device 20, 10-11, 16, 17 for moving cloth 15 which are arranged same claimed. The apparatus of Bronander is capable of removing moisture from a plurality of items of clothing. With regard to the claimed material of the absorbent body, examiner takes official notice that it is well known in the moisture removing art to use microfiber material as absorbent. Therefore, it would have obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to further provide the cloth dewatering apparatus of Bronander with a microfiber absorbent in order to improve the dewatering efficiency.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

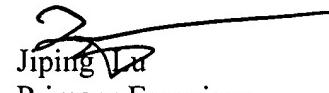
Conclusion

7. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jiping Lu whose telephone number is 571 272 4878. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 9:00 AM - 5:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ira Lazarus can be reached on 571 272-4877. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Art Unit: 3749

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Jiping Du
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3749

J. L.